

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Approved Meeting Minutes

Recorded by Janice Pack

March 29, 2018

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6 **Members Present:** Kat Carpenter, Norm Nickerson, Andre Wood

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8 **Public Present:** Ray Cilley

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10 **Meeting Opened:** The meeting was called to order at 6:50 PM

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12 Ray Cilley joined us to speak about the Bennington Rail Road. Peter Leachman has the lease to operate and has  
13 had issues with Pan Am Railways, the parent company; they are trying to stop Peter from operating the train to  
14 Milford. He currently hauls gravel from Lyndeborough to Milford. Peter is looking at passenger cars to hopefully  
15 bring them back on line, too. Ray thought we might want to reach out to the Economic Development  
16 Committees in Wilton, Lyndeborough, Bennington and Milford and offer our support. **Action Item: Janice will**  
17 **get contact info, and Andre will reach out to them.** Bringing the tourist trolley back could be a benefit to the  
18 Towns.

19  
20 Kat mentioned the Rural Business Development Grant application which Aaron Patt had encouraged the EDAC  
21 to work on. We need to pick a subject, or focus, and then get going on this. Kat asked if anyone had written  
22 grants before; no one present had. Kat read what Aaron had written which mentions building upon the identity  
23 of the town as a recreational entity. Andre reiterated that we could use the grant money to do a survey to find  
24 out where we fit in.

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26 Ray asked if EDAC had a budget and proceeded to speak about the video that the Coffee and Conversation  
27 Group is putting together. They have just chosen a guy in Keene to do it, and the cost will be about \$4,500. He  
28 was wondering if EDAC could participate financially. It is projected to go live in December so it will take the  
29 viewer through all four seasons. **Action Item: Kat will get a copy of the Current Budget from Catherine.**

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31 **The Minutes** of February 28, 2018 were reviewed by the Committee. A motion to accept the Minutes as  
32 written was made by Kat. All were in favor except Andre who abstained (2-0-1); motion passed.

33  
34 **Election of Officers:** There are only 3 members currently; we need to do an outreach for additional members.  
35 Norm will speak to Jack Moran and see if he might be interested in being an Alternate. Kat said she is open to  
36 changing the way the meetings are run, perhaps rotational chairing. Norm was okay with the idea of a 3-month  
37 stint for chairing, and so was Andre. We will wait to appoint a Vice Chair until we have additional members.

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39 **The Charter:** Copies of the Charter were distributed, and Kat read aloud the Purpose statement. The  
40 Committee discussed several changes which could be incorporated.

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42 Andre wanted to include a note in the Charter that we could put a vote of no confidence out there. If you see a  
43 problem, fix the problem. Kat suggested we research the legalities of that. **Action Item: Kat will do a draft**  
44 **revision of the Charter and forward it to all present.**

45  
46 In discussing priorities, working on the grant was the first priority, and networking was second. It is hopeful that  
47 we can do a Koffee Klatch the end of May or early June. Kat asked for the permission of the Committee to go to  
48 the Select Board and ask if it will be okay for the EDAC to use student volunteers. Andre suggested that we also  
49 reach out to the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

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55 The Committee discussed what time would be best for the first Koffee Klatch and Norm suggested 10:00 a.m.  
56 While Monday was thought to be a bad day to have one, Wednesday was a good choice.  
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58 The purpose is to get existing businesses together and networking.  
59     • To introduce one to another.  
60     • To recognize that we have at home businesses, telecommuters and storefront.  
61     • To find out what the businesses need from one other and from EDAC; how can we help them?  
62  
63 Norm mentioned that the next Coffee and Conversation meeting will be held next Wednesday, April 4th at the  
64 Barbara C. Harris Center, and he would let the group know that the EDAC is looking for additional members.  
65  
66 The Committee reviewed the Action Items on their list to better understand what was expected of the  
67 Committee, and what was currently being working on and what needed to be done.  
68  
69 The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 3rd at 5:00 PM. We will meet with Aaron to work on the Grant.  
70 Following that we will meet on Tuesday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM. As Andre and Norm both work until 5:00 they will  
71 arrive a little late.  
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73 Andre moved to adjourn the meeting; Norm seconded and all were in favor (3-0-0).  
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75 **The meeting adjourned at 8:36 PM.**